

1 UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
2 FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

3 SUMMARY ORDER

4 THIS SUMMARY ORDER WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REPORTER
5 AND MAY NOT BE CITED AS PRECEDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO THIS OR ANY OTHER
6 COURT, BUT MAY BE CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS OR ANY OTHER
7 COURT IN A SUBSEQUENT STAGE OF THIS CASE, IN A RELATED CASE, OR IN
8 ANY CASE FOR PURPOSES OF COLLATERAL ESTOPPEL OR RES JUDICATA.

9 At a stated term of the United States Court of Appeals for the
10 Second Circuit, held at the United States Courthouse, Foley Square,
11 in the City of New York, on the 21st day of May, two thousand and
12 three.

13 PRESENT:

14 HON. FRED I. PARKER,
15 HON. ROBERT D. SACK,

16 Circuit Judges.*

17 -----
18 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

19 Appellee,

20 - v -

No. 02-1435

21 FRANKLIN BOYKOFF,

22 Defendant-Appellant.

23 -----
24 Appearing for Appellant: KATHRYN KENEALLY, Fulbright &
25 Jaworski L.L.P., New York, N.Y.

* The Honorable Guido Calabresi of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, who was originally a member of the panel, recused himself prior to oral argument. The appeal is being decided by the remaining two members of the panel, who are in agreement. See 2d Cir. R. § 0.14(b); Murray v. NBC, 35 F.3d 45, 46-48 (2d Cir. 1994), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1082 (1995).

1 Appearing for Appellee: BARBARA GUSS, Assistant United
2 States Attorney (James B. Comey,
3 United States Attorney for the
4 Southern District of New York, Meir
5 Feder, Gary Stein, Assistant United
6 States Attorneys, of counsel), New
7 York, N.Y.

8 Appeal from the United States District Court for the
9 Southern District of New York (Colleen McMahon, Judge).

10 UPON DUE CONSIDERATION, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND
11 DECREED that the judgment of the district court be, and it hereby
12 is, affirmed.

13 Defendant-appellant Franklin Boykoff appeals from a July 19,
14 2002, judgment after a jury trial, convicting him on fifteen
15 counts of tax fraud and related offenses under 18 U.S.C. § 371
16 (conspiracy to defraud the United States), 26 U.S.C. §§ 7201
17 (income tax evasion), 7206(1) (subscribing false returns),
18 7206(2) (aiding the preparation of false returns), 7212(a)
19 (interfering with the administration of the Internal Revenue
20 Code), and acquitting him on the remaining eight counts of aiding
21 the preparation of false returns under 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2).
22 Boykoff was sentenced to fifty-seven months' imprisonment, three
23 years' supervised release, a \$75,000 fine, prosecution costs of
24 \$28,610.79, a \$950 special assessment, and restitution to the
25 Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") of \$290,219. Boykoff makes
26 numerous arguments of trial and sentencing errors, all of which
27 are without merit.

28 The Exclusion of the Expert Psychiatric Testimony

29 Boykoff argues that the district court erred by excluding
30 expert psychiatric testimony diagnosing him with bipolar disorder
31 and attention deficit disorder. Boykoff wanted to offer the
32 testimony to show that he was disorganized, unfocused, and often
33 late, consistent with his argument that any errors in the
34 relevant tax returns were due to carelessness, not willfulness.

35 The district court excluded Zonana's testimony for two
36 reasons. See United States v. Boykoff, 186 F. Supp. 2d 347, 348-
37 50 (S.D.N.Y. 2002) ("Boykoff III"). First, the court found that
38 Boykoff failed to demonstrate an adequate link between the
39 proffered testimony and the specific intent of the crimes under
40 Fed. R. Evid. 702. Second, the court concluded that the evidence
41 would be more misleading to the jury than probative under Fed. R.
42 Evid. 403.

1 We review decisions concerning expert testimony for abuse of
2 discretion, according "broad discretion" to the district court in
3 deciding whether to admit or exclude expert testimony. United
4 States v. Onunomu, 967 F.2d 782, 787 (2d Cir. 1992) (internal
5 quotation marks omitted). We also review evidentiary rulings for
6 harmless error. United States v. Diallo, 40 F.3d 32, 35 (2d Cir.
7 1994).

8 In this case, we need not reach the question of whether the
9 district court abused its broad discretion by excluding the
10 evidence under Rules 702 and 403 because we conclude that the
11 error, if any, was harmless. A jury could not reasonably have
12 found that the excluded expert testimony negated the specific
13 intent of willfulness. As the district court found, the evidence
14 of willfulness was overwhelming. Numerous witnesses -- including
15 Boykoff's longtime business partner, his clients, the
16 investigating IRS agent -- gave testimony indicating that Boykoff
17 committed substantial numbers of willful acts over an extended
18 period of time. In addition, the expert expressly asserted that
19 he had not consulted the relevant tax returns and therefore could
20 not link the errors in the returns to Boykoff's medical
21 condition. Moreover, Boykoff failed to identify particular
22 errors in the tax returns that suggest transposed numbers or
23 random, careless mistakes -- the kind of errors that could be
24 caused by his attention-deficit disorder or bipolar disorder.
25 Rather, the errors comprise additions of "round numbers" such as
26 \$10,000 and \$50,000. Finally, we do not think that a jury would
27 be persuaded that the asserted mental conditions could have been
28 the cause of errors that only benefitted Boykoff and his clients.
29 We therefore conclude with "fair assurance, after pondering all
30 that happened without stripping the erroneous action from the
31 whole, that the judgment was not substantially swayed by the
32 error," if any error was committed. See Kotteakos v. United
33 States, 328 U.S. 750, 765 (1946).

34 The Appearance of Bias

35 The defendant argues that the district court gave the
36 appearance of improper bias under United States v. Edwardo-
37 Franco, 885 F.2d 1002 (2d Cir. 1989). The district judge noted
38 at several points that her family experience with attention-
39 deficit disorder informed her view that attention-deficit
40 disorder would not prevent someone from forming criminal intent.
41 While those comments arguably may have been relevant to the
42 question of the district court's ability dispassionately to
43 decide the admissibility of Dr. Zonana's testimony, we do not
44 reach the question of its admissibility, for the reasons
45 discussed above. The comments do not otherwise bear on the

1 court's fairness and impartiality. This case is very different
2 from, and therefore not controlled by, Edwardo-Franco, where the
3 court expressly disparaged people of the defendants' nationality,
4 Colombian. Id. at 1005. By contrast, the district court's
5 comments in this case did not indicate bias against any group of
6 which Boykoff is a member.

7 The Admission of IRS Agent Dennehy's Testimony

8 Boykoff argues that the district court erred by permitting
9 the expert testimony of IRS Agent Dennehy, who testified about
10 his analysis of the defendant's improper reporting of certain
11 personal expenses as business expenses. Boykoff contends that
12 the agent's testimony was improperly admitted as summary, rather
13 than substantiated, evidence under United States v. Greenberg,
14 280 F.2d 472, 476-77 (1st Cir. 1960) ("Greenberg I"), and United
15 States v. Greenberg, 295 F.2d 903, 908-09 (1st Cir. 1961)
16 ("Greenberg II"). But the crux of the First Circuit's decision
17 in the Greenberg cases was that the agent's testimony was
18 impermissibly based on hearsay. See Greenberg II, 295 F.2d at
19 908. This case does not present a similar hearsay problem.
20 Boykoff's argument under the Greenberg cases therefore fails.

21 Boykoff also contends that Agent Dennehy's testimony
22 improperly shifted the burden of proof to Boykoff, effectively
23 converting his criminal prosecution into a civil tax audit. But
24 Agent Dennehy was not the trier of fact, and the district court
25 made clear to the jury that Agent Dennehy was testifying only
26 about his opinion, that the jury was responsible for deciding
27 whether each item was a proper business deduction, and that this
28 criminal prosecution differed from a civil audit in that the
29 government was required to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a
30 reasonable doubt and the defendant was not required to prove
31 anything. Moreover, as the court pointed out in the jury charge,
32 the government was not required to prove beyond a reasonable
33 doubt "each and every item that it claims was income to Franklin
34 Boykoff" or "the exact amount of the tax deficiency"; rather, the
35 government needed only to "prove[] beyond a reasonable doubt that
36 there was a substantial tax deficiency." (Tr. of Proceedings
37 before Hon. Colleen McMahon in the United States District Court
38 for the Southern District of New York, on Jan. 27 - Feb. 8, 2002,
39 at 1802. ("Tr.")) In sum, the district court did not abuse its
40 "broad discretion," Onunomu, 967 F.2d at 787, by admitting Agent
41 Dennehy's expert testimony.

1 The Jury Charge: Burden-shifting

2 The defendant also argues that the district court
3 impermissibly shifted the burden of proof to the defendant by
4 stating in the jury charge that taxpayers are legally required to
5 keep records documenting the information shown on their tax
6 returns. The defendant did not object to this aspect of the
7 charge at trial, so we review it for plain error, that is, for
8 "(1) error, (2) that is plain, and (3) that affects substantial
9 rights." Johnson v. United States, 520 U.S. 461, 467 (1997)
10 (internal punctuation omitted). If those three conditions are
11 met, we may exercise our discretion to notice a forfeited error,
12 "but only if (4) the error seriously affects the fairness,
13 integrity, or public reputation of judicial proceedings." Id.
14 (internal punctuation omitted).

15 It appears that there is no error here, much less a plain
16 one. The court correctly stated the law. See 26 C.F.R.
17 § 1.6001-1. And the defendant has pointed to no binding
18 authority holding that it is error to refer to these requirements
19 in a criminal tax case. The defendant merely cites a First
20 Circuit case that observes in a footnote that evidence that a
21 defendant failed to file a return was improperly admitted,
22 because there was no evidence that the particular defendant even
23 owed a tax. See Greenberg I, 280 F.2d at 474 n.2. In addition,
24 the Supreme Court precedent relied on by Greenberg I, Spies v.
25 United States, 317 U.S. 492 (1943), did not hold that a jury may
26 not draw inferences from a taxpayer's failure to file a return or
27 pay a tax; Spies held only that the combined failure to pay and
28 failure to file are not sufficient to prove criminal tax evasion.
29 See Spies, 317 U.S. at 500. Thus, in the case at bar, even if
30 there was error in the district court's instruction about the
31 record-keeping requirements of the Internal Revenue Code -- which
32 seems very unlikely -- that error was not plain.

33 Moreover, immediately after instructing the jury about the
34 record-keeping requirements, the court explained the burden of
35 proof in a criminal case and distinguished this criminal case
36 from a civil audit. Even if the record-keeping instruction was
37 mistaken, then, any prejudice engendered by it was minimal.

38 The Jury Charge: The Explanation of an Accountable Plan

39 Boykoff argues that the court misstated a specific matter of
40 tax law in the charge to the jury: whether an employee's
41 expenses, when paid directly by the employer, count as income to
42 the employee.

1 We review jury charges de novo. United States v. Dyer, 922
2 F.2d 105, 107 (2d Cir. 1990). When reviewing a jury instruction,
3 we consider the disputed charge "within the context of the
4 district court's charges in their entirety." United States v.
5 Feliciano, 223 F.3d 102, 120 (2d Cir. 2000), cert. denied, 532
6 U.S. 943 (2001) (citing United States v. Caban, 173 F.3d 89, 94
7 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 528 U.S. 872 (1999)). "An appellant
8 bears the burden of showing that the requested instruction
9 accurately represented the law in every respect and that, viewing
10 as a whole the charge actually given, he was prejudiced." United
11 States v. Abelis, 146 F.3d 73, 82 (2d Cir. 1998) (internal
12 quotation marks omitted), cert. denied, 525 U.S. 1147 (1999).

13 In this case, the district court gave the parties a copy of
14 the jury charge in advance and gave the parties an opportunity to
15 challenge any aspect of it on the morning of its delivery. In
16 the original charge distributed to the parties for review, the
17 district court made two separate statements about the tax status
18 of business expenses -- in one part explaining that direct
19 payment of expenses by an employer counts as income to the
20 employee, and in another part explaining that, in certain
21 circumstances, reimbursement of business expenses by an employer
22 constitutes an "accountable plan" under which the expenses do not
23 count as income to the employee. For the purposes of this
24 discussion, we accept that the charge, as written, was
25 misleading. See 26 U.S.C. § 62(a); 26 C.F.R. § 1.62-2(c); 1
26 Boris I. Bittker & Lawrence Lokken, *Federal Taxation of Income,*
27 *Estates and Gifts* ¶ 2.1.3 (3d ed. 1999).

28 Although we review jury instructions de novo, Dyer, 922 F.2d
29 at 107, "[n]o party may assign as error any portion of the
30 charge or omission therefrom unless that party objects thereto
31 before the jury retires to consider its verdict, stating
32 distinctly the matter to which that party objects and the grounds
33 of the objection." United States v. Crowley, 318 F.3d 401, 412
34 (2d Cir. 2003) (quoting Fed. R. Crim. P. 30). Despite having
35 been given a printed copy of the charge the day before and being
36 present when the government proposed a modification to precisely
37 the paragraph defense counsel later challenged, defense counsel
38 did not object to the charge before it was delivered to the jury.
39 Although defense counsel objected before the jury began
40 deliberating, he did not "distinctly" state "the grounds of the
41 objection." Crowley, 318 F.3d at 412. When the court asked
42 defense counsel to "[s]how me something" to support defense
43 counsel's claim about the law of direct payments, defense counsel
44 failed to do so. (Tr. at 1842.) The judge cannot be expected to
45 correct an instruction when the objecting party fails to explain
46 or to offer support for his objection. Cf. United States v.

1 Phillips, 522 F.2d 388, 390-91 (8th Cir. 1975) (rejecting the
2 defendant's argument that "he complied with Rule 30 by tendering
3 to the trial court the standard cautionary informer instruction
4 . . . and stating that he had no objection to the court's chosen
5 instruction 'other than' that the defendant's requested charge
6 'better state(s) the law as regards to credibility of witnesses
7 in this case'" (footnote omitted)). Since the defendant failed
8 to comply with the requirements of Rule 30, we review for plain
9 error only. See Crowley, 318 F.3d at 414.

10 The error, if any, was not plain. The defendant does not
11 argue on appeal that the jury instruction was erroneous; he
12 argues only that "[t]he tax law is not as absolute as the trial
13 court set out." Appellant's Br. at 38. Defense counsel's
14 proposed alternative instruction was "[j]ust a simple statement
15 that 'I instructed you that a direct payment by the employer of
16 an expense is income to the employee. That's incorrect. It's
17 not income.'" (Tr. at 1841.) If the problem with the court's
18 charge is that it was too absolute, as the defendant argues on
19 appeal, then the defendant's proposed jury instruction also did
20 not "accurately represent[] the law in every respect." Abelis,
21 146 F.3d at 82. Not only did defense counsel fail to distinguish
22 the "expenses" in his charge as business expenses, defense
23 counsel also represented the relevant tax law as absolute by
24 asking the court to say that its prior instruction was
25 "incorrect" and to assert the direct opposite. (Tr. at 1841.)

26 Finally, the prejudice, if any, was minimal. The key
27 question before the jury was whether the relevant expenses were
28 business expenses rather than personal expenses. Because the
29 jury clearly found that the relevant expenses were for personal
30 matters, whether or not the defendant properly declined to report
31 them as income under an accountable plan does not bear upon his
32 conviction for misrepresenting personal expenses as business
33 expenses.

34 Denial of Discovery of the IRS Agent's Report

35 The defendant argues that he was entitled to discovery of
36 the IRS Special Agent's Report (the "Report") on all of his
37 clients' returns under Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and
38 United States v. Sternstein, 596 F.2d 528 (2d Cir. 1979)
39 ("Sternstein I"), because the Report would help him show that any
40 errors in the few clients' returns at issue in the indictment
41 were careless. The district court considered this argument and
42 rejected it in two written decisions. United States v. Boykoff,
43 No. 01 Cr. 493 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 7, 2001) ("Boykoff I"); United

1 States v. Boykoff, No. 01 Cr. 493 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 12, 2001)
2 ("Boykoff II").

3 "The management of discovery lies within the sound
4 discretion of the district court, and the court's rulings on
5 discovery will not be overturned on appeal absent an abuse of
6 discretion." Grady v. Affiliated Cent., Inc., 130 F.3d 553, 561
7 (2d Cir. 1997), cert. denied, 525 U.S. 936 (1998). Moreover,
8 "evidence of noncriminal conduct to negate the inference of
9 criminal conduct is generally irrelevant." United States v.
10 Grimm, 568 F.2d 1136, 1138 (5th Cir. 1978). And the defendant
11 acknowledged to the district court that the type of material he
12 requested is generally not discoverable in a criminal tax case.

13 As the defendant points out, Sternstein I carves out an
14 exception to this rule. 596 F.2d at 529-31. There, we reversed
15 a district court's decision to deny a defendant discovery of an
16 IRS agent's report on the defendant's clients who were not named
17 in the indictment. Id. at 531. Like Boykoff, Sternstein argued
18 that this report would show that errors were found in only a few
19 of his clients' reports, thereby bolstering his argument that
20 those errors were careless. Id. at 529. We held that the report
21 was important to Sternstein's defense against the government's
22 claim that he falsified returns in order to retain his clients.
23 Id. at 530-31.

24 In Sternstein I, the district failed to conduct an in camera
25 appraisal of the value of the evidence. Id. at 529. Though we
26 ordered release of the report to the defendant on remand, the
27 purpose of our remand was to permit the district court to
28 "determine whether the Special Agent's report reveals that a
29 substantial number of the returns prepared by appellant which
30 were investigated showed no error." Id. at 531. In Boykoff's
31 case, by contrast, the trial court did review the Report in
32 camera and issued a brief written decision that the Report did
33 not contain exculpatory material. The court found that the
34 Special Agent was unable to draw final conclusions in most cases
35 because he lacked underlying records for many of the taxpayers,
36 and the court concluded that "the Special Agent's tentative
37 observations after looking over (but not auditing) other returns
38 prepared by Mr. Boykoff were far from exculpatory." Boykoff II,
39 No. 01 Cr. 493, slip op. at 1. As we observed in Sternstein I,
40 "the firsthand appraisal of the trial judge is essential in
41 determining the materiality of withheld evidence." 596 F.2d at
42 531 (citing United States v. Agurs, 427 U.S. 97, 114 (1976)).
43 Because the district court in this case conducted the necessary
44 examination and found that the Report did not offer exculpatory
45 material, the court committed no error in denying discovery of

1 the Report. See Sternstein I, 596 F.2d at 531; see also United
2 States v. Sternstein, 605 F.2d 672, 673 (2d Cir. 1979) (per
3 curiam) ("Sternstein II") (observing that the trial court's
4 findings "establish that no errors were found in only 8 of the
5 134 tax returns actually audited by [the] IRS and prepared by the
6 appellant" so the probative value of the materials was "at best
7 negligible" and a new trial was not warranted).

8 Exclusion of Certain Testimony the Defendant Proffered as
9 Relevant to the Counts of Aiding and Abetting Dr. Cimmino

10 The defendant argues that the district court improperly
11 excluded testimony by the brother of Dr. Cimmino -- who prepared
12 Dr. Cimmino's medical partnership books -- that Dr. Cimmino
13 deceptively withheld tax-related information from Boykoff.
14 Boykoff wanted to elicit from Cimmino's brother testimony that
15 Dr. Cimmino told his brother not to send certain annual summaries
16 and checks to Boykoff. The district court permitted Boykoff to
17 elicit testimony that Dr. Cimmino's brother did not send the
18 records, but excluded testimony as to what Dr. Cimmino told his
19 brother.

20 The court rejected the evidence on two grounds. First, the
21 court rejected the defendant's proffer of the testimony to
22 impeach the credibility of Dr. Cimmino's earlier testimony that
23 he did not remember if he sent the records. This decision was a
24 straightforward application of Rule 608(b), which prohibits the
25 introduction of extrinsic evidence (other than criminal
26 convictions) to impeach the credibility of a witness. See Fed.
27 R. Evid. 608(b); United States v. Moskowitz, 215 F.3d 265, 270
28 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 531 U.S. 1014 (2000).

29 Second, the court rejected as collateral the testimony about
30 why Cimmino's brother did not send the records. The court
31 determined that the only matter relevant to whether Boykoff was
32 deceived about Dr. Cimmino's tax situation was whether Boykoff
33 received the records, not why he did or did not receive them.
34 Thus, the court permitted Boykoff to question Cimmino's brother
35 about whether he sent the records to Boykoff, but not why.
36 Cimmino's brother then gave inconsistent testimony, variously
37 asserting that he did not send the annual statements to Boykoff
38 and that he did not remember if he sent them. (Tr. 1171-72.) In
39 light of all the evidence before the district court, particularly
40 the defendant's initial proffer of the evidence for improper
41 impeachment purposes under Rule 608(b), we conclude that the
42 district court did not abuse its discretion by excluding
43 testimony by Dr. Cimmino's brother that Dr. Cimmino told him not

1 to send the disputed records. See United States v. Pascarella,
2 84 F.3d 61, 70 (2d Cir. 1996).

3 Count Twenty-Three: Whether the Obstruction of Justice Charge Is
4 Time-Barred

5 Count twenty-three charged Boykoff with obstructing the
6 IRS's audit of Dr. Weiser, Boykoff's client, by providing false
7 expense receipts and writing false entries in Dr. Weiser's
8 diaries to substantiate improper deductions claimed on Dr.
9 Weiser's individual tax returns for 1990 through 1992. The
10 defendant was charged with obstruction of justice under 26 U.S.C.
11 § 7212(a), for which the statute of limitations is defined by 26
12 U.S.C. § 6531. Section 6531 provides for a three-year statute of
13 limitations except in enumerated situations, such as a conviction
14 under section 7212(a). See 26 U.S.C. § 6531(6). The defendant
15 argues that the six-year statutory period applied to section
16 7212(a) under section 6531(6) does not apply to his offense
17 because he was not charged with "intimidation of officers and
18 employees of the United States," as named in a parenthetical in
19 section 6531(6). Rather, he was charged with the aspect of
20 section 7212(a) that covers corrupt interference with the
21 administration of the Internal Revenue laws, the so-called
22 omnibus clause of section 7212(a).

23 The application of a statute of limitations is a matter of
24 law that we review de novo. Corcoran v. New York Power
25 Authority, 202 F.3d 530, 542 (2d Cir. 1999), cert. denied, 529
26 U.S. 1109 (2000). Courts have uniformly held that the
27 parenthetical in section 6531(6) is explanatory, not limiting,
28 and applies to all conduct under section 7212(a). See, e.g.,
29 United States v. Kassouf, 144 F.3d 952, 959 (6th Cir. 1998);
30 United States v. Workinger, 90 F.3d 1409, 1413-14 (9th Cir.
31 1996); see also United States v. Kelly, 147 F.3d 172, 177 (2d
32 Cir. 1998) (rejecting the defendant's argument on plain error
33 review). We therefore conclude that the district court properly
34 rejected the defendant's argument. (Tr. 1145.)

35 Count Twenty-Three: Admission of Statements to Agent Monachino

36 Boykoff argues that the district court erred by denying his
37 motion to suppress statements made by him and Dr. Weiser during
38 the July 13, 1995, interview of Dr. Weiser conducted by IRS Agent
39 Monachino. The defendant argues that his rights were violated
40 because Agent Monachino was actually conducting a criminal
41 investigation under the auspices of a civil audit. Judge McMahon
42 conducted a hearing on the matter on the first day of trial and,
43 in a decision dated January 23, 2002, concluded that the

1 statements were admissible because Agent Monachino was not acting
2 as an agent of the Criminal Investigation Division, see Boykoff
3 III, 186 F. Supp. 2d at 352, and the statements were obtained
4 during a non-custodial interrogation without threats or promises,
5 id. at 353.

6 When reviewing a district court's ruling on a motion to
7 suppress, we review the factual findings for clear error and the
8 legal conclusions de novo. United States v. Casado, 303 F.3d
9 440, 443 (2d Cir. 2002); United States v. Peterson, 100 F.3d 7,
10 11 (2d Cir. 1996). We stated in United States v. Squeri, 398
11 F.2d 785 (2d Cir. 1968), that, "even if the IRS had contemplated
12 criminal proceedings against [the defendant], there would be no
13 merit to the claim of deception; the information that a
14 taxpayer's returns are under audit gives sufficient notice of the
15 possibility of criminal prosecution regardless of whether the
16 agents contemplate civil or criminal action when they speak to
17 him," id. at 788. See also United States v. Kontny, 238 F.3d
18 815, 819-20 (7th Cir.), cert. denied, 532 U.S. 1022 (2001). We
19 conclude that the district court committed no error by admitting
20 the testimony of Agent Monachino.

21 Sentencing

22 Boykoff argues that his sentence should be vacated because
23 the district court erred 1) in applying an enhancement for
24 sophisticated concealment under U.S.S.G. § 2T1.4(b)(2), and 2) in
25 calculating his tax loss for purposes of determining his base
26 offense level.

27 U.S.S.G. § 2T1.4(b)(2) provides for a 2-level increase in
28 the defendant's offense level if the offense of aiding tax fraud
29 involved sophisticated concealment. We review de novo the
30 district court's decision regarding the sophisticated-concealment
31 enhancement, giving due deference to the district court's
32 Guidelines application. See United States v. Lewis, 93 F.3d
33 1075, 1080 (2d Cir. 1996).

34 At sentencing and on appeal, the government argued that the
35 sophisticated-concealment enhancement was appropriate because of
36 Boykoff's conduct in helping a client who was being audited to
37 fabricate restaurant receipts and expense journal entries, and in
38 paying personal expenses from business accounts and
39 characterizing those expenses as business expenses. In applying
40 the sophisticated-concealment enhancement, the district court
41 observed that "[t]he Weiser scheme alone constitutes
42 sophisticated concealment. The fabrication of receipts and
43 expense journals is the very essence of sophisticated

1 concealment, because it relies on Mr. Boykoff's knowledge of what
2 the taxpayer would need to justify the expenses." (Tr. of
3 Proceedings before Hon. Colleen McMahon in the United States
4 District Court for the Southern District of New York, on June 24,
5 2002, at 31.)

6 As we stated in Lewis,

7 even though this tax-evasion scheme cannot be described
8 as singularly or uniquely sophisticated, it is more
9 complex than the routine tax-evasion case in which a
10 taxpayer reports false information on his 1040 form to
11 avoid paying income taxes . . . or asserts he paid
12 taxes that he did not pay Even if each step in
13 the planned tax evasion was simple, when viewed
14 together, the steps comprised a plan more complex than
15 merely filling out a false tax return.

16 93 F.3d at 1082, 1083 (overturning a district court's decision
17 not to apply a sophisticated-concealment enhancement where the
18 defendant claimed fraudulent deductions by writing checks to non-
19 existent entities drawn on his bank account, which were deposited
20 into other accounts from which the defendant paid his personal
21 expenses). In the case at bar, fabricating receipts and expense
22 journal entries involved "a plan more complex than merely filling
23 out a false tax return." Id. at 1082; see also Kontny, 238 F.3d
24 at 821. We therefore conclude that the district court did not
25 err in applying the enhancement for sophisticated enhancement.

26 We review de novo the district court's calculation of the
27 "tax loss" attributable to the defendant. United States v. Bove,
28 155 F.3d 44, 46-47 (2d Cir. 1998). Having reviewed the tax-loss
29 calculation and the defendant's arguments challenging it, we
30 conclude that the district court committed no error.

For the foregoing reasons, the judgment of the district court is hereby AFFIRMED.

FOR THE COURT:

ROSEANN B. MACKECHNIE, Clerk

By:

Date